

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217756
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;RWFARRAND:REH
APPROVED BY D - WCHRISTOPHER
EUR;SOV - WTSHINN
EUR - WHLUERS
S/MS - JMJOYCE
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HA - MSCHNEIDER
S/S-O - RCASTRODALE
-----121025 261548Z /43
O 261542Z AUG 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217756

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALISTS AND ARMENIAN FAMILY

REF: MOSCOW 20334

1. ACTION PLAN OUTLINED PARA 2 REFTEL APPROVED.
2. I WOULD SUGGEST FOLLOWING CHANGES TO YOUR PROPOSED STATEMENT TO EMBASSY SIT-IN INS IN ORDER TO INCLUDE ARMENIAN WOMAN AND HER CHILDREN EXPLICITLY:
3. DELETE WORD "PERSONALLY" FROM FIRST SENTENCE, FIRST
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PARAGRAPH. PURPOSE OF THIS CHANGE WOULD BE TO BROADEN TEXT TO ENCOMPASS EMBASSY'S (AND DEPARTMENT'S) REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIETS ON BEHALF OF BOTH GROUPS OF SIT-INS;

4. CHANGE PARAGRAPH TWO OF LETTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS, WITH SAME OBJECT OF ENCOMPASSING ARMENIAN WOMAN AND CHILDREN:

5. "MR. AND MRS. VASHCHENKO AND MRS. CHMYKHALOV, YOUR CONTINUED STAY IN THE EMBASSY WITH YOUR CHILDREN, RATHER THAN SERVING ANY USEFUL PURPOSE, APPEARS TO HAVE HAD INCREASINGLY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR YOURSELVES, YOUR FAMILIES AND YOUR FELLOW PENTECOSTALISTS THROUGHOUT THE

SOVIET UNION. MRS. OVSEPYAN, YOUR MOTHER AND SISTER IN THE U.S. ARE NOW FULLY INFORMED ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS AND THEY ARE PREPARING A NEW LETTER OF INVITATION REQUIRED BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES BEFORE YOUR REQUEST FOR EXIT VISAS CAN BE CONSIDERED AGAIN. THE INVITATION LETTER WILL BE SENT TO YOUR HOME IN YEREVAN AND MUST BE PERSONALLY SUBMITTED BY YOU TO THE VISA OFFICE IN THAT CITY. THUS, YOUR CONTINUED STAY IN THE EMBASSY MERELY PUTS OFF THE DAY WHEN WORK ON YOUR CASE CAN BE RESUMED.

6. ,YOU ALL KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT YOUR PRESENCE HERE MAKES MORE DIFFICULT THE EMBASSY'S TASK OF ASSISTING OTHERS WHO ALSO NEED AND DESERVE OUR HELP..." (CONTINUE PER REFTEL.

7. CONCERNING PARA. 3 REFTEL, FOR NOW I PREFER TO STAND ON YOUR STATEMENT EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND ASSURANCES OF USG SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSE ONCE PENTECOSTALISTS/ARMENIANS HAVE LEFT EMBASSY.
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8. THERE SHOULD BE NO PHYSICAL OR OVERBEARING PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE IN CARRYING OUT THE INSTRUCTION. THUS, IF THE GROUP REFUSES TO LEAVE AFTER HEARING THE MESSAGE, THERE SHOULD BE NO EXTENDED ARGUMENTATION. FURTHER, MARINES SHOULD NOT BE VISIBLE IN THE BACKGROUND.

9. SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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